

WE CLAIM:

1. A sealing tape for use on cartons and other articles fabricated of recyclable material, the tape comprising:

(a) <sup>of 104 mils</sup> a base ply formed of high-strength, synthetic plastic film having treated opposing surfaces which render these surfaces wettable with adhesive;

(b) a face ply formed of paper cold-laminated by an adhesive to the base ply so that its orientation is maintained; and

(c) a layer of moistenable adhesive coating the exposed wettable surface of the base ply, the exposed surface of the face ply being printable, whereby the tape, when the layer is moistened, can be adhered to an article to be sealed and the tape can later be stripped off the article in toto so that the article can then be recycled.

2. A tape as set forth in claim 1, wherein said base ply is biaxially-oriented.

3. A tape as set forth in claim 1, wherein said paper ply is formed of Kraft paper.

4. A tape as set forth in claim 1, wherein said film is of a material selected from a class consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene and polyester.

5. A tape as set forth in claim 1, wherein said paper face ply has a thickness at least twice the thickness of said film base ply to impart body to the tape.

6. A tape as set forth in claim 1, wherein said film ply has a thickness no greater than one mil.

7. A tape as set forth in claim 6, wherein said paper ply has a thickness no greater than three mils.

8. A tape as set forth in claim 1, wherein cold lamination is effected by a water-based adhesive.

9. A tape as set forth in claim 7, wherein said water-based adhesive has an acrylic copolymer composition.

10. A tape as set forth in claim 1, wherein said moistenable adhesive layer is composed of a water-based adhesive.

11. A tape as set forth in claim 10, wherein said moistenable adhesive is a starch composition.

12. A tape as set forth in claim 1, further including a longitudinal array of fiberglass strands sandwiched between the paper face ply and the film base ply to reinforce the tape without substantially increasing its thickness.

13. A method for manufacturing a tape as set forth in claim 1, comprising the steps of:

(a) concurrently advancing into the nip of pressure<sup>roll</sup> at a combining station a web of film material from which the base film ply having wettable opposing surfaces is derived and a web of paper material from which the face paper ply is derived, said film web traveling along a stretch which extends in a path leading to the nip;

(b) applying a water-based adhesive to one of the wettable surfaces of the film web before it enters the nip so that in the roll the webs are cold laminated to form combined webs which emerge from rolls and travel along an output path; and

(c) in the output path applying to the other wettable surface of the film web a coating of the remoistenable adhesive.

14. A method as set forth in claim 13, further including the step of subjecting the opposing surfaces of the film web to a corona discharge to render these surface wettable and receptive to adhesive.

15. A method as set forth in claim 13, wherein said combined webs traveling in the output path are fed to an output reel.

16. A method as set forth in claim 15, further including a step wherein the combined webs from the output are fed into a slitter where the combined webs are slit into individual tapes.